

BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION OF JASPER COUNTY

BOARD MEETING MINUTES – JULY 12, 2018

PRESENT: Vice Chairperson Pamela M. Williams; Mr. Rodney Catterton; Mrs. Denise Davidson; Ms. Regenia Scott; Mr. John Kemp and the Director Ms. Jeanine Bostick.

ABSENT: Chairman Joseph Arzillo; Mr. Carl Tyler and Ms. Carrie Fair.

NOTIFICATION TO THE MEDIA: Vice Chairperson Williams announced the media had been notified.

INVOCATION: Mrs. Regenia Scott.

Pledge Allegiance by all.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Vice Chairperson Williams called for a motion to approve the agenda deleting under Old Business; Letter to County Council (Ms. Fair) and Expenses of Voter Registration Drive Notices and Advertisements (Ms. Fair). These topics will be tabled for the next agenda for the next meeting, due to Ms. Fair absence at this meeting. Motioned by Mrs. Scott, seconded by Mr. Kemp to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting per Vice Chairperson Williams amendment. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 14, 2018 Board Meeting and Canvass Hearing Minutes and June 28, 2018 Canvass Hearing Minutes. Motioned by Mr. Kemp and seconded by Mrs. Scott to approve the above listed minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

Mr. Kemp asked the Director to please read a letter submitted to the Board for the record by the Republican Party Chairperson Karen Wyld. The Director stated per Mrs. Wyld request everyone was assigned to work except for three individuals; two had no prior training to the election and one was disqualified as a poll worker by the Board. Mr. Kemp commented the Board is being asked to make an exception and if the political party feels what the Board is doing isn't fair there are other means of how to handle the matter. Mrs. Davidson asked were there any list provided by the Republican Party prior to July 2, 2018. Mrs. Davidson asked was there not a list submitted by the Republican Party prior to the Primary Run-Off. The Director stated a list was submitted after the June 12, 2018 Primary at the Canvass Hearing and that list was emailed to the Board following the Canvass Hearing. Mr. Catterton asked was there anyone on the list that was disqualified as a worker. Vice Chairperson Williams commented we need to go back to the official question should this list have been submitted for this election, the answer would be no. If the Board would read the last part of the law (7-13-72) its stated (**However, the county board of voter registration and elections may refuse to appoint any prospective manager for good cause**). The Board does not have any responsibility to honor this request. Mrs. Scott asked were the persons on the list assigned to work. The Director stated everyone was assigned to work except three people, as stated earlier two persons on the list had no prior training before the election and one was disqualified as a poll worker by the Board.

Mrs. Davidson asked were the workers assigned to work at the precinct the Republican Party had requested in the letter. The Director stated some individuals were already assigned to work at the precinct as listed in the letter submitted by Republican Party, others were already assigned to work at other precincts and those individuals were not reassigned per the request in the Republican Party letter. Mrs. Davidson quoted the law for allowing political parties to submit a list for workers for a Primary election. The Director stated this was a Special Election and not a Primary and therefore a list from any political party for this Election the Board does not have to honor the request and the assignment of workers is decided by the Board. Mr. Kemp commented everything is *moot*, the letter is wrong and we know it's wrong, the Republican Party Chairperson admitted the letter was being submitted at the wrong time and for the wrong type of election. Mr. Kemp went on to say the Board makes the decision not the political party, they give us a list and the Board decides. Mrs. Scott stated we have a letter and we have the law and the letter demands we do a certain thing; however, the Board must follow the law. Mrs. Scott went on to say there is no need to put this discussion on the agenda for the next meeting; the Board follows the law and that's it. Mr. Catterton agreed the Board did what we were supposed to do, but felt there isn't any reason why the Board shouldn't put the discussion on the agenda for the next meeting. Mr. Kemp stated he did not want to see the discussion added to the agenda for the next meeting the matter is *moot*. Vice Chairperson Williams concurred with Mrs. Scott and Mr. Kemp. Vice Chairperson Williams suggested perhaps a letter can be sent to the political parties identifying that they are to submit a list of workers for the Primary as stated in the law and it's understood the Board makes the decision of where the listed workers would work. After much discussion the majority of the Board at tonight's meeting decided this matter would not be discuss at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: June 28, 2018 Run-Off Election Overview: Mr. Kemp commented he felt we had a very good election, the turnout was low and the process for returning election materials is getting better.

Mr. Kemp mentioned a letter was sent to Mr. Fulghum by the Director requesting a County cell phone for voter registration business currently the Director uses her personal cell phone.

OLD BUSINESS: Board Guidelines (Mr. Kemp): Mr. Kemp stated each Board member was given the suggested guidelines and he would like to give copies to County Council and the Delegation. The guideline would be helpful to new Board Members. It was moved and seconded at the last meeting to use the guidelines manual. Open for discussion, hearing none. Motion to approve by Mrs. Scott and seconded by Mr. Kemp. Motion carried unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: The Director informed the Board the Ridgeland 2 voting precinct, Father Norbert of the Catholic Church is asking the Board to find a new location after the July 17, 2018 Special Election for a voting precinct. Father Norbert stated he's the only person there to open the door. I assume Father Norbert is becoming frustrated with the process. Mrs. Davidson asked if the Board wanted to meet and discuss this matter with Father Norbert because this issued has come up before. Mrs. Davidson stated she would meet with Father Norbert and ask if the Board can utilize the facility for the November 6, 2018 General Election.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT, CONT'D.: The Director informed the Board she would be on vacation July 25th thru July 27th and Rosemary would be on vacation August 1st thru August 6th.

The Director reminded the Board of the continuing education to keep their certification. Please review the training list provided earlier this year, register online for the training course you are interested in taking and let the Director know in order to request a check for payment of training.

Total registered voters as of July 1, 2018: **18,295**.

The Director informed the Board the petition candidates deadline is Monday, July 16, 2018 at noon.

The Director informed the Board that she notified Lori of the City of Hardeeville to file their candidate filing notice and filing will be handled at their office and not the Voter Registration Office.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: None.

BOARD ISSUES AND CONCERNS: Mr. Kemp mentioned the Director will be in Columbia August 7th and 8th on Cyber Security training and the Chairman should attend and IT staff is welcome to attend as well.

Mr. Kemp asked the Board to consider separating the agendas and minutes for Board meetings and Canvass Hearings that are held on the same day and time.

Mr. Kemp informed the Board the State has adopted a new program to help with removal of deceased persons from our voter registration system.

Mr. Kemp stated he would like to see the budget report quarterly at our meetings.

Mr. Kemp stated the office has been renovated to accommodate Observers at the Absentee Precinct. The iVotronic Terminal storage shelving is finally completed. Additional work will be done, ie., carpet.

TOPIC(S) OF DISCUSSION FOR NEXT MEETING:

- Budget Reviewed Quarterly
- Ballot By Mail (Ms. Fair)
- Expenses: Voter Registration Drive Notices and Advertisements (Ms. Fair)
- Discussion: Ridgeland 2 Voting Precinct Relocation

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business motioned to adjourn by Mrs. Scott and seconded by Mr. Kemp. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by, Jeanine Bostick, Director

cc: File; Board Members; Mr. Andrew Fulghum, County Administrator; Mrs. Judy Frank, Clerk of Council; Jasper County Delegation